

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q80581

Sadato AKAHORI

Allowed: April 3, 2009

Appln. No.: 10/806,476

Group Art Unit: 2624

Confirmation No.: 1699

Examiner: Edward PARK

Filed: March 23, 2004

For: APPARATUS, PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM FOR LEARNING DATA TO FORM A SELF-ORGANIZING MAP COMPRISED OF REFERENCE VECTORS CORRESPONDING TO FEATURES OF AN IMAGE AND USED FOR DETERMINING OBJECTS IN AN IMAGE

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

**ATTN: MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REMARKS**

Applicant offers the following comments in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance set forth on pages 3-6 of the Notice of Allowability dated April 3, 2009. The Reasons for Allowance are based on certain limited elements while unnecessarily characterizing the prior art as teaching certain remaining claim elements. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable based on their collective recitations and should not be premised merely on the individual elements stated by the Examiner.

Patent Office personnel are requested to note that the present submission does not adversely affect the patent term adjustment accrued by the Applicant to date. As emphasized in

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the “Clarification of 37 C.F.R. §1.704(c)(10) – Reduction of Patent Term Adjustment for Certain Types of Papers Filed After a Notice of Allowance Has Been Mailed,” 1247OG111 (6/26/01), “a response to the examiner’s reasons for allowance” is an example of a paper that does “not cause substantial interference and delay in the patent issue process” and is “not considered a ‘failure to engage in reasonable efforts’ to conclude processing or examination of the application.”

Therefore, the Applicant remains entitled to the full patent term adjustment set forth on page 3 of the Notice of Allowance dated April 3, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan P. Pan  
Registration No. 41,239

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 28, 2009